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German Democratic Republic

CONDITION AND LOAD CAPACITIES OF FORMER LANDESBahn RR SECTORS

[redacted] condition and load capacity of the roadbed of the former Landesbahnen (privately-owned railroad lines) in the Berlin Reichsbahn District. Because of the increase in the number of derailments and the very poor condition of the rails on the sectors of the former Landesbahn, the Reichsbahn Directorate inspected certain sectors and discovered that the rails had become firmly imbedded in the ballast, apparently as the result of the use of ballast material and overloads on the rails.

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A detailed investigation was made of the roadbed of these lines with regard to the load capacity of the rails, ties, and ballast. [redacted]

[redacted] observations and suggestions [redacted]

1) the load capacity of the rails varies between 9.2-14.2 tons. However, taking as a basis a maximum ballast pressure of 1 kilogram per square centimeter for the loamy sand ballast, the maximum axle pressure is only 6.7-9.5 tons, and even this figure assumes that the ties are reliable, which is not the case. 2) Since locomotives with axle pressures of 13.50-17 tons run on these railroad sectors, reinforcement work is useless and has been discontinued. The emphasis has been shifted to small-scale repairs, mainly replacement of individual ties. 3) Since basic improvement of the condition of the rail lines is impossible within a conceivable period of time, it is suggested that locomotives with axle pressures higher than 12 tons and with more than 3 driving axles should not be permitted on these lines. 4) It is requested that a commission be appointed to establish the maximum axle loads and to stipulate measures which are necessary to restore the operational safety of these railroad sectors.

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